WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 2 March 21, 1942

CONNECTICUT (March 15).--Homemaking programs being reorganized to save mileage; emphasis on printed and mimeographed material instead of local meetings. Women urged in meetings to simplify housekeeping, grow garden, preserve food, maintain family health, purchase wisely, support war programs, strengthen home morale. Revised canning bulletin to be distributed. Two-day coat schools held in three counties, emphasizing remodeling.

Extension economist helped farmers with income tax; used radio talks and news articles, held 23 meetings with 821 attending. Outline being prepared to help USDA in setting 1943 production goals for milk, eggs, vegetables; in larger counties check to be made on estimates of production trends and physical limits to increased production; further check by State War Board before sending to USDA. First farm-machinery repair clinic held; about 15 more planned. Survey being made to compile schedule of suggested rates for rental of various kinds of farm machinery. Community auction of second-hand machines suggested in one county. Radio station announces "Swap for Defense" program to advertise farm articles for exchange. Maple-sugar making at home with improvised materials encouraged for owners of sugar maples. Extension forester cooperating with State Defense Council on emergency spray rigs for forest fire protection. Fewer persons ordering nursery trees this year, but larger orders; labor shortage for tree planting to be met by use of student crews from University.

IOWA (March 4).--Giving major attention to livestock and feed production and garden and nutrition program. Men and women cooperators selected in each 4-square-mile area. Cooperators trained by county extension agents in county-wide meetings or groups of 2 to 4 townships, assisted by AAA, SCS, FCA, FSA, and vocational teachers. Some 28,000 cooperators trained.

Educational material prepared to date for use of cooperators include:

(a) The War Emergency Livestock and Feed Budget.
(b) A "Keep 'Em Eating," pamphlet, including material on feeding, care and management of hogs, poultry, dairy cows, soybeans, and flax.
(c) A problem form to help local leaders in assisting farmers with the livestock budget.
(d) An explanation of the Government's proposal toward farm prices.

(e) A mimeographed sheet giving feed and price adjustments to be considered in connection with the war emergency livestock and feed budget.
(f) A pamphlet entitled "Victory Home Food Supply."

Attendance at school district meetings held by cooperators range from 5 to 12.

KANSAS (March 14).--State, district, and local Victory Garden committees organized. Extension horticulturist chairman of State committee. District and county meetings held. Under direction county agents volunteer local leaders outlining to all farm families necessity of growing a garden from nutrition and health standpoint. Of 154,000 farm families in State, 150,000 have been reached. Estimated 90 percent of farms will grow gardens - a figure far in excess of USDA War Board farm garden goal.

Emergency extension nutritionists will be employed for 3 months to conduct leader-training meetings and demonstrate food preservation in counties without home demonstration agents. Home demonstration agents will conduct leader-training meetings in their counties. Goal - a trained leader in food preservation for each 12 families in State.

Pushing increased dairy production, proper feeding through meetings, radio, etc. County agents cooperating with War Boards in farm machinery repair program. Counties listing 12 types of machinery operated by farmers in county, year such machines were purchased, and probable repairs needed. Summary made in each county of farm labor needed to harvest 1942 crops in cooperation with and for Farm Labor office.

All press and radio material released from USDA War Board, Kansas AAA, SCS, AAA, and other agencies of the USDA cooperating with Extension Service routed through extension information service, thus minimizing duplication of material sent to editors and radio stations.

MAINE (March 13).--Dairy feeding meetings held in all counties declining with hay shortage, hay supplies, balanced rations, substitutes for hay, use of home-grown feed.

Home demonstration agents holding Civilian Defense nutrition courses, with 300 meetings held. Extension foods specialist has assisted in giving two refresher courses to home-economics trained people who wish to qualify to teach the Red Cross nutrition course.

Governor signed a proclamation March 5 calling boys and girls to enroll in 4-H Food-for-Victory projects, designating March as 4-H enrollment month. Commissioner of Education, through superintendents of schools, has made it possible for extension agents to speak at all rural schools on subject.

Woodland management is receiving attention. A forest products cooperative association organized in one county to give cruising, marking, and marketing service to its members. Organization possible because of increased need as result of war demand for pine boxboards. Information on production of charcoal for gas masks obtained by Extension for the War Production Board.

MISSOURI (March 12).--Extension asked by War Board take lead machinery repair work. Fourteen district schools, community repair schools held in every county. 400 sets large machinery charts, 20,000 sets small charts distributed to county agents, vocational teachers, FSA supervisors, and machinery dealers. Repair orders 207 percent of 1941.

State Victory Garden Conference held at Columbia with representatives of all interested agencies present. Director elected Chairman, State Advisory Garden Committee, and Gardening Specialist, Chairman, Garden Works Committee. 42,000 neighborhood leaders conducting survey, taking enrollments, and assisting in food plan. 50,000 families enrolled in Food-for-the-Home Program.

Held 9 district conferences on production and utilization of poultry and poultry products. Nutrition classes and meetings being held.

114 annual county "Balanced Farming" conferences attended by 16,574 farmers and leaders. Neighborhood schools being held to help farmers plan operations to increase production of needed crops yet conserve soil. Circular prepared on wheat as feed for livestock to meet immediate need for information. Land use problem areas being located and plans developed to assist farmers to minimize soil losses in these areas.

First week in March designated as "Victory 4-H Week."

Reports completion of a Food-for-Home-and-Defense survey of 36,571 families. Milk is served on average of 13.5 times a week, fruit 9.9, meat 9.4, eggs 7.2, whole-grain bread or cereal 7.2, green, yellow, or leafy vegetables 4.8, and other vegetables 8.7 times a week. Average family of three persons cans 26.7 quarts of fruit, 10.9 quarts tomatoes, 2.5 quarts peas, 1.7 quarts greens, 12.3 quarts other vegetables, and 5.6 quarts of meat per person. Over 90 percent of families grow radishes, lettuce, peas, onions, beets, green beans, tomatoes, and potatoes, and 48 percent grow grapes, 47 percent peaches, and 46 percent blackberries. Over 30 percent grow strawberries, gooseberries, and pears. They keep an average of 91 hens per family and were short of eggs for home use in November, December, and January. They milk 2 cows per family for home use and were short of milk in January and February. 39 percent tested for Bang's and 44 percent for T.B. The average family kills 2.5 hogs and 44.1 chickens for own use, and 1 family in 4 kills a beef.

TENNESSEE (March 9 - 16).--A 10-point wartime Extension program outlined for State, on which all agents and specialists will center their activities for the duration.

State Farm Labor Committee set up at request of U. S. Employment Service and State Selective Service Board, with Director of Extension as Chairman, to be followed by organization of county committees with county agents as chairmen, for purpose making plans to meet labor demands within communities and counties; assist in placement of labor where needed; work out plans for maximum use labor-saving equipment; give factual information to Selective Service Boards, when requested, to aid Board in properly classifying agricultural registrants.

County and home demonstration agents continue to place emphasis on things farm families can do to help win war - Victory gardens; development of local farm leaders through community Victory Committees and 4-H Clubs; machinery and equipment repair; poultry production; food and nutrition; scrap-metal collection.

VERMONT (March 13).--Holding series county agricultural planning meetings; discuss food needs, production 1942, 1943, how overcome farm machinery, other handicaps. Assistant extension editor added to help handle War Board, other information. County planning committees organizing farm labor subcommittees to collaborate with Employment Service, Selective Service.

Extension man co-chairman Victory Garden program, county Victory Garden committee to be held late March, early April. Extension agents to hold gardening, food-preservation meetings each county in April. Governor to proclaim Vermont Victory Garden Week in April. Extension specialists appointed Victory Garden subject-matter specialists. Extension printing special garden literature.

War responsibilities theme annual Extension conference March 23-27.

Continuing farm machinery repair drive; dealer reports indicate farmers are buying needed parts. Cooperated with WPA in auto graveyard survey; 88 yards surveyed containing 4,557 junked cars and trucks. Agents helping local salvage committees organize, push collection scrap metal, paper, rags, rubber.

VIRGINIA (March 16).--Meat production information given 120 professional workers and 1,300 farmers in 50 counties through 25 livestock schools. Horticultural program revamped to include use of orchards for pasture and feed production. Need for more oil and best methods of production stressed in 11 area meetings for 500 professional workers and War Board chairmen. Leaflets printed: Peanuts for Oil, 5,000 copies; Soybeans for Oil, 20,000 copies.

Live-at-home dairying emphasized in 35 meetings of professional workers and farm leaders. Several leader-training meetings held in butter and cheese making. Virginia's milk-for-freedom program summarized in radio talk sent to all radio stations in State.

About 1,050 4-H Club members and other young people reached through 10 special poultry meetings. Poultry work with leaders continues. Victory Garden meetings held in 60 counties; Tomatoes for Defense meetings held in 30 counties; 2,500 copies of mimeograph, Tomatoes for Freedom, available to prospective growers. Grow Your Own Food for Freedom (50,000 copies printed) to be distributed through county boards of agriculture. Printed March issue of Virginia 4-H Club Letter, containing information on dietary needs and garden plans.

Estimated 10,000 pieces of farm equipment repaired in State's 225 high-school farm shops. Six machinery repair meetings held March 9 - 14; attendance 194. Distributed information and held series demonstrations on electric brooding.